



2. Public Involvement

Public involvement is a key component of regional water planning. This section describes the public participation process used for the Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Plan and provides the public welfare statement that was developed as part of the process.

2.1 Documentation of Public Involvement in Planning Process

In 1997, the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County worked together to begin the process of developing a regional water plan. The City of Santa Fe dedicated a water resource planner on a half-time basis to create and coordinate the efforts of the JySWPC. The JySWPC was created through a series of meetings with primary water diverters within the region. Invited participants were limited to direct diverters of surface water or groundwater as well as representatives of several public interest organizations. Agencies, sovereign Pueblos, and groups or individuals that are directly affected by and/or that can directly influence the diversion of water were invited to participate. The intent was for JySWPC members to represent decision-making bodies that ultimately will be in a position to formally adopt the JyS Regional Water Plan. It was also felt that the JySWPC should include representatives from environmental/ public interest and business/development organizations to assure the concerns of these groups were addressed throughout the process. Individual citizens interested in JySWPC activities were allowed to attend meetings, but were not included as members of the Council.

Over 110 people were invited to participate in the water planning effort and creation of the Council. These included representatives from the following organizations:

- *Pueblos:* San Ildefonso, Tesuque, Nambe, Pojoaque, Santa Clara, San Juan, Cochiti, Santo Domingo, and Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council
- *Counties:* Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba
- *Cities:* Santa Fe, Española, Los Alamos





- *Irrigation Districts/Acéquias:* New Mexico Acéquia Commission, New Mexico Acéquia Association, Acéquia de la Cienega, Acéquia Madre, Acéquia Cerro Gordo, Garcia Acéquia, Acéquia Muralla, La Bajada Community Ditch, Llano Ditch, Las Acéquia del Chupadero, New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association, Pojoaque Valley Irrigation District, Santa Cruz Irrigation District
- *Federal Government:* Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, USACE, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Forest Service
- *State Government:* ISC, OSE, State Land Office, New Mexico Environment Department
- *Domestic Water Supply:* New Mexico Rural Water Users Association, Eldorado Water and Sanitation District, Galisteo Water Users Association, Agua Sana Water Users Association, Pojoaque Valley Water Users, Sunlit Hills Water System
- *Los Alamos National Laboratory / Department of Energy*
- *Advocacy Groups:* Rio Grande Restoration, Environmental Law Center, League of Women Voters, 1000 Friends of New Mexico, Water Dialogue, Amigos Bravos, Northern New Mexico Legal Services, Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce, North Central New Mexico Economic Development District, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association, Santa Fe Land Use Resource Center, Santa Fe River Task Force

All organizations were personally contacted by City of Santa Fe staff and were invited to attend meetings through a combination of phone calls, face-to-face contacts or presentations, or letters. Staff from the City of Santa Fe met individually with each of the Pueblos on numerous occasions to explain the purpose of regional water planning and the City's interest in regional planning. Two presentations were made to the New Mexico Acéquia Association.





Beginning in February 1998, Merle Lefkoff, Toby Herzlich, and Nadine Tafoya facilitated four meetings that included the drafting of the cooperative agreement and naming of the JySWPC, as well as working with Santa Fe County and City staff to develop the planning process, edit correspondence, and meet individually with stakeholders. By August 1998, the JySWPC was formed through the signing of the Cooperative Agreement (Appendix A1). Council members are listed in Section 1.2.

Pueblo leaders chose to participate as observers in the process. A portion of the ISC funds were directed toward facilitating Pueblo involvement. Peter Chestnut was retained by the Northern Pueblos Tributary Water Rights Association to provide legal review and serve as a liaison with the Pueblos. Lee Wilson & Associates was retained to provide technical review of documents on behalf of the Pueblos. Representatives from the Northern Pueblos Tributary Water Rights Association stated that they could feel comfortable participating in the planning process if the JySWPC acknowledged the following:

- *No injury to Pueblo water rights:* The planning process will not limit Pueblo water right claims. It is understood that there are other processes that must occur before claims are finalized. Pueblos may not want to share information about future water needs.
- *Respect for senior water rights:* No decision made by the JySWPC has any effect, or will be binding, on a participating entity regarding water right issues.
- *Pueblo water rights do not arise under state law:* Federal law controls the extent of Native American water rights; state laws regarding prior appropriation, beneficial use, and forfeiture do not apply. The parties to the JySWPC recognize that participating Pueblos have tribal sovereignty.

2.1.1 Council Meetings

The JySWPC met monthly beginning in 1998. The water planning coordinator maintained an e-mail list of all members interested in JySWPC meetings and subcommittee meetings. Minutes of JySWPC meetings were mailed to approximately 200 individuals and newsletters were sent





to approximately 1,200 individuals. LANL contributed staff time for assisting with mailings of minutes and newsletters, as well as providing technical assistance for development of a hydrologic database, as described in Section 5.

2.1.2 Subcommittee Meetings

Subcommittees met on an as-needed basis, often twice a week for short periods of time. Table 1 lists the subcommittees and chairs that were established to complete the water plan:

Table 1. Subcommittees and Chairs of the Jemez y Sangre Water Planning Council

Subcommittee	Chair	Period of Activity
Public Involvement/Public Welfare Subcommittee	Consuelo Bokum 1000 Friends of New Mexico	1998-2003
Population Subcommittee	Moises Gonzales Rio Arriba County Planner	1999-2000
Technical Subcommittee	Amy Lewis City of Santa Fe Water Resource Planner	1998-2001
Legal Subcommittee	Peter Chestnut Northern Pueblo Tributary Water Rights	1999-2002
Pueblo Subcommittee	Ernest Mirabal Nambe Pueblo	1998-2003
Alternatives Subcommittee	Paul Aamodt LANL and water rights holder in Nambe-Pojoaque	2001-2002
Executive Committee	Estevan Lopez, Santa Fe County Bob Vocke, LANL (co-chair) Elmer Salazar, LANL (co-chair)	1998-1999 2000-2003

Subcommittees were open to participation by the public. Subcommittees worked together to develop the scope of works and request for proposals issued to complete the work. Participants were on the selection committees and assisted in the review of work products. This process brought a degree of confidence that the report results were not biased or designed to one view point. The Alternatives Subcommittee included several citizens who attended the public meetings and volunteered to work on developing alternatives.





Subcommittee participants are listed in Appendix A3. Individuals who participated in a subcommittee do not necessarily sanction this plan or any part of it.

2.2 Strategy Chosen to Maximize Public Involvement

Public involvement during the planning process occurred at different levels, with the primary level of involvement occurring at JySWPC meetings. The next level of involvement was through public meetings held at key points in the planning process to inform the public and to obtain public input on the plan formulation. The third level of involving the general public was through communication and educational activities of the JySWPC such as newsletters, press releases, and press coverage of public meetings. These different levels of involvement are described in Sections 2.2.1 through 2.2.3.

The JySWPC established the Public Involvement/Public Welfare Subcommittee, chaired by Consuelo Bokum of 1000 Friends of New Mexico. The subcommittee was to:

- Plan for and supervise the process for public involvement
- Develop the foundation for the public welfare and community values sections of the regional plan

In 1999, the subcommittee contracted with Lucy Moore, Roberto Chene, and Rosemary Romero to provide design, facilitation, and summary services for public meetings, workshops, and Council meetings, as needed (Appendix A3). The subcommittee also contracted with Ed Moreno, a public relations expert, to help write news articles and prepare presentation materials for improved communication to the public and to ensure that the plan was easily accessible to the public.





2.2.1 Level I Involvement: Council Members

2.2.1.1 Dissemination of Information at Council Meetings

JySWPC meetings were held once a month and included a status report on subcommittee work. During periods when the JySWPC was awaiting the results of work from the contractors, presentations were given by JySWPC members or other officials to discuss important water issues. This helped Council members become informed about water issues and the concerns of other partners in the planning process. Appendix C1 contains a list of presentations on key water resource issues given at JySWPC meetings. Minutes of public meetings are provided in Appendix C2.

2.2.1.2 Workshops

Two significant workshops were held with the entire JySWPC. The first workshop was a week-long charrette, held in February 2002, designed to evaluate the alternatives developed by the alternative subcommittee. Experts from the southwestern United States were invited to prepare white papers on the various alternatives and to meet with JySWPC members to discuss the technical and legal implications of the alternatives. This format gave JySWPC members the opportunity to learn in detail about the value of the alternatives and ask questions of the experts. White papers were developed for each of the alternatives, as discussed in Section 7.

The second workshop was held in November 22, 2002 to discuss “area of origin” and the establishment of Critical Management Areas (CMAs). Elected officials were invited so that they could learn about regional water planning issues and help the Council address some of the more difficult ones. A summary of the workshop is provided in Appendix C2.

2.2.2 Level II Involvement: Public Meetings for Information and Feedback

2.2.2.1 Public Meetings

The JySWPC held its first series of public meetings in February 2001. Meetings were held in each of the ten sub-basins within the region to discuss the results of the water supply analysis. The JySWPC presented the sub-basin water budgets and the projected water demand based on population projections. Members of the public were asked to provide feedback about their values for the public welfare statement and to assist in developing alternatives to address the





water supply problems. Meeting participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey form, which provided the JySWPC with specific feedback on public welfare values (Section 2.3).

A second set of public meetings was held in October 2002 to explain the results of the alternatives analysis and obtain feedback on the draft public welfare statement. A final meeting, to present the Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Plan to the public, is planned for the spring of 2003. Table 2 shows the dates and times of these public meetings. Summaries of the public meetings are provided in Appendix C2.

Table 2. Locations and Dates of Public Meetings

Location	Date
<i>First Series of Public Meetings</i>	
Velarde	February 1, 2001
Los Alamos	February 7, 2001
La Cienega	February 8, 2001
Española	February 13, 2001
Tesuque	February 15, 2001
El Dorado	February 19, 2001
Santa Fe-Sweeny	February 20, 2001
Santa Fe-Community College	February 21, 2001
Pojoaque	February 22, 2001
Cerrillos	February 27, 2001
Galisteo	March 8, 2001
<i>Second Series of Public Meetings</i>	
Santa Fe Sweeney Center	October 2, 2002
Cerrillos Fire Station	October 3, 2002
El Convento, Española	October 7, 2002
<i>Final Public Meeting</i>	
Santa Fe	May 2003 (anticipated)

2.2.2.2 Outreach to Specific Groups

Many people are uncomfortable attending large public meetings. For this reason, the JySWPC reached out to existing groups by presenting an overview of the regional water planning effort at various organizational meetings. Table 3 lists meetings attended by JySWPC members as part of this effort.





Table 3. Presentations About the Jemez y Sangre Water Planning Effort

Organization/Meeting	Presenter	Date
Northern Pueblo Tributary Water Rights Association	Amy Lewis, Mike Hamman	November 10, 1997
NM Acequia Commission	Amy Lewis	December 19, 1997
Santa Fe Land Use Resource Center Water and Growth Decisions Conference	Amy Lewis	May 16, 1998
Eight Northern Indian Pueblos	Amy Lewis	July 13, 1998
Nambe Pueblo Council Meeting	Amy Lewis, Mike Hamman	July 23, 1998
Northern Pueblos Tributary Water Rights Association	Amy Lewis, Mike Hamman	August 11, 1998
Tesuque Pueblo	Amy Lewis, Mike Hamman	August 25, 1998
City Council	Amy Lewis, Mike Hamman	August 26, 1998
Northern NM Acequia Workshop	Amy Lewis	November 20, 1998
Northern Tributary Water Rights Association	Amy Lewis, Mike Hamman	August 30, 1999
Judge Leslie Smith and Parties to the Aamodt Adjudication	Amy Lewis	September 27, 1999
League of Women Voters	Amy Lewis	January 13, 2000
Rio Arriba County Commissioners and Planning Department	Amy Lewis	February 9, 2000
Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Council	Amy Lewis	July 19, 2000
Old Santa Fe Association	Estevan Lopez, Amy Lewis	July 18, 2000
Santa Fe Board of Realtors	Amy Lewis	September 6, 2000
CLE Water Law Conference	Estevan Lopez, Amy Lewis, Peter Chestnut, Patricio Garcia	September 20, 2000
Regional Planning Authority	Amy Lewis	November 16, 2000
Santa Fe Geological Society	Amy Lewis	November 21, 2000
Santa Fe City Council	Amy Lewis	February 14, 2001
Decision Makers Conference	Amy Lewis	May 2001
City of Santa Fe Public Works/CIP & Land Use Committee	Amy Lewis	November 13, 2001
Regional Planning Authority	Amy Lewis	February 2002
Public Utilities Committee	Ed Moreno	September 4, 2002
Santa Fe Economic Development	Ed Moreno	September 10, 2002
Rio Arriba County Commission Meeting	Amy Lewis, Ed Moreno	September 26, 2002
Española City Council Meeting	Amy Lewis, Ed Moreno	October 1, 2002
Middle Rio Grande Planning Council	Lucy Moore, Ed Moreno	November 7, 2002
Board of Realtors	Conci Bokum	December 4, 2002





2.2.3 Level III Involvement: Public Education

2.2.3.1 Fact Sheets

The Public Involvement/Public Welfare Subcommittee developed a flyer that explained the purpose of regional water planning and distributed this flyer at public meetings, beginning early in the process. The flyer is provided in Appendix C3.

Fact sheets were also developed to help inform the public about key issues related to water planning. These fact sheets, which covered topics such as water law in New Mexico, public welfare, and a glossary of terms, are provided in Appendix C3.

2.2.3.2 Newsletters

The JySWPC contracted with an individual to prepare newsletters that were mailed to over 1,200 people interested in water resource issues. The first four newsletters were made possible through a grant from the Los Alamos Community Foundation. Copies of the newsletters are provided in Appendix C4.

2.2.3.3 Use of the Media

Press releases were sent to the two primary newspapers in the area and to organizational newsletters. Through these efforts, the planning process received excellent coverage. Copies of newspaper articles are provided in Appendix C4.

2.3 Public Welfare

A public welfare statement was developed by the JySWPC, in part from information collected from a survey form distributed during public meetings. The adopted public welfare statement is provided below. A fact sheet on public welfare was also developed (Appendix C3).





PUBLIC WELFARE STATEMENT FOR JEMEZ Y SANGRE REGION

Water is the element that interconnects all people and their environment in the Jemez y Sangre region, and the region to the larger environment that is the earth. Every person living in the region expects enough water for basic needs, and every person has the responsibility to protect water resources and use their share wisely. Using the best possible information, water planning and decision making should balance diverse needs and reflect the values of the region.

Rural and Wildlands Character

Residents of the Jemez y Sangre region place great value and importance on the preservation of the rural character of the region. Urban and rural residents alike appreciate and wish to maintain the historic, agriculture-based communities, rural vistas, wildlife habitat and attributes of natural landscapes including rivers, streams and trees.

Water Sustainability

Residents understand that the history of the region reflects water scarcity and cycles of drought. It is a high priority of residents of the region to serve current and future human needs without long-term depletion of the available water supply, while maintaining acceptable water quality and healthy interdependent ecological systems. Sustainability requires a combination of efforts, including encouraging conservation and efficiency by all sectors at every scale, discouraging activities that deplete or degrade the water supply, planning for population growth and land use, seeking new water sources that do not impair other regional values, and improving the use of existing water supplies.

Economic Sustainability

Each sub-region has unique economic needs and conditions that depend on the availability of water. It is important to have quality jobs and a healthy economy in order to maintain a good quality of life in the long term.

Water Quality

Water quality is a significant consideration in the region's water supply. In many sub-basins, the available groundwater has been compromised by contamination, either human caused or natural. Wastewater treatment and reuse of treated water should be expanded throughout the region. The available water should be protected from potential contamination from the impacts of human activities or natural events.

Rights and Responsibilities

Water planning must be carried out in a context of respect for water rights and property rights. Like all rights, the right to use water, especially in an arid region, is married to the responsibility to use water efficiently and wisely. The Jemez y Sangre region respects the senior water rights of the pueblos in the region and recognizes pueblos' tribal sovereignty.

Decision Making

In this demographically and geographically diverse region, it is necessary for all governmental and private entities to work together to achieve the goal of a balanced and sustainable water future. Fostering healthy, vibrant communities requires a commitment to open, inclusive dialogue and decision making.

